

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 stand rejected. Independent claims 1, 30, and 33 have been amended. Support for these amendments is provided on pages 9 and 10 of the originally-filed specification, *inter alia*. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 9-13, 17-24 and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al., U.S. Patent 6,636,505 (hereinafter “Wang”). Amended claim 1 includes the following limitation:

automatically configuring an asset of said broadband communication network to
communicate with said personal computer, wherein
said automatically configuring said asset is performed by an automation server of
said broadband communication network.

Independent claims 11, 21, 30, and 33 include substantially similar limitations.

Wang does not teach an automation server that automatically configures an asset of the broadband communication network to communicate with the personal computer being configured. In fact, Wang teaches away from automatically configuring network assets. For example, Fig. 2 of Wang indicates that, in a preferred embodiment of the invention, the automatic provisioning process includes *configuration of the network for service by an engineer at the network service provider's central office*. Applicants believe that this embodiment indicates that manual configuration of network assets is required in the system of Wang. Assets that are indicated to be configured by the engineer include network 60, the network's core ATM network 80, the service provider's Wide Area Concentrator (not shown in Fig. 2), and DSLAM 90. (See Wang, column 9, lines 23-33).

The Final Office Action dated February 27, 2005, indicates that automatic configuration of an asset of the broadband communication network is taught by Wang, columns 9, lines 23-32; column 10, lines 63-37 (sic, 63-67), and column 11, lines 1-34. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nothing in the cited portions of Wang indicates that the processes described are automatically performed by a server in the broadband communication network. The actions performed can be part of the manual configuration process described with reference to Fig. 2.

Additional support for the argument that an engineer / operator configures assets manually on the broadband communication network is given in the detailed service provisioning flows shown in Fig. 5. In Fig. 5, most of the network-side service-provisioning flows are initiated by the Telco Network Management System (NMS), which Applicants believe to include a user interface for the operator. For example, Wang indicates in column 7, lines 54-58 that “[i]nterfaces to Network and Service Management systems ... allow the configuration of user’s services on the carrier’s network while isolating the carrier’s front line personnel from needing to understand the details of technologies, such as ADSL and ATM.” Furthermore, the Integrated Local Management Interfaces (ILMI) management information bases (MIBs) are extended to provide the advantages of Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) “hand free configuration, integrated service management *for the operator*, enhanced end-to-end service provisioning, and *reduced operator service overheads*.” (See Wang, column 7, lines 9-15.) Applicants believe that the teachings of Wang are limited to manual configuration of network assets by an operator. Consequently, no teaching of configuration of network assets by an automation server is shown.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 11, 21, 30, and 33 are allowable over Wang. Consequently, each of claims 1-33 has been shown to be allowable over Wang.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

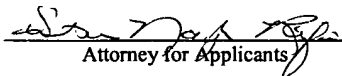
Claims 4-6, 8, 14-16 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al., U.S. Patent 6,636,505, in view of Bahlman, U.S. Patent 6,684,242. Each of claims 4-6, 8, 14-16 and 25-27 is a dependent claim depending from one of independent claims 1, 11, or 21. Each of independent claims 1, 11 and 21 has been shown to be allowable over the Wang reference standing alone. Consequently, claims 4-6, 8, 14-16 and 25-27 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

In conclusion, claims 1-33 have been shown to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 25, 2005.


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7/25/05
Date of Signature

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